



> Our priorities > Research Culture

Scoping Questionnaire on Research Culture

In January 2021, Science Europe launched a new activity on the Recognition Systems of Research. This activity builds on Science Europe's long-standing work on

Recognising the broad nature of the term 'Research Culture', Science Europe set about to collect positions and perspectives of its Member Organisations through a scoping questionnaire as a preliminary step towards developing, with members, activities on the topic.

A starting point for collective reflections on Research Culture?

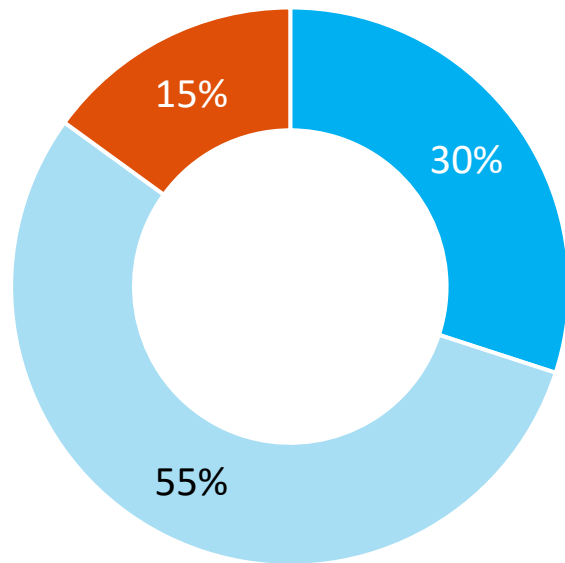
For the purposes of the initial scoping exercise, 'Research Culture' was taken to broadly encompass the values, behaviours, expectations, attitudes, and norms of any given research system (in line with the [Royal Society definition](#)).

Questionnaire Findings

The Scoping Questionnaire on Research Culture was launched in late February 2021. By April, 20 Science Europe Member Organisations had responded to the questionnaire, including both research funding and research performing organisation representatives.

Definitions and positions on research culture

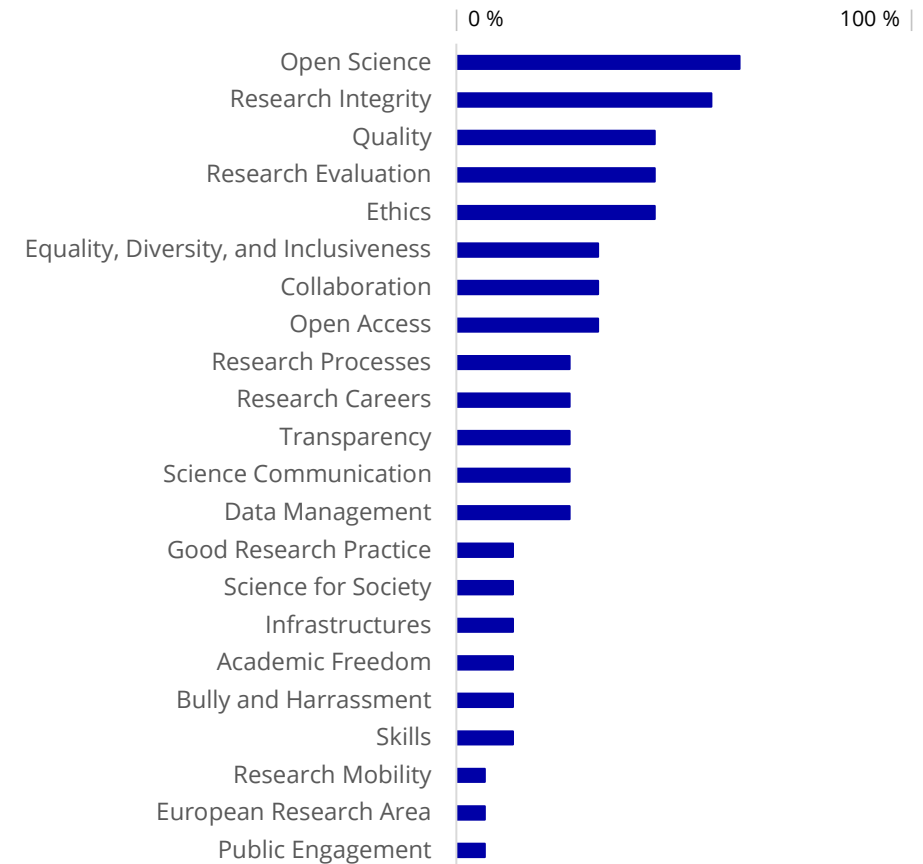
Question - Does your organisation have a working definition and/or position on research culture?



■ Yes ■ Partially ■ No

Topics mentioned in information provided in support of the responses given:

Keywords collected via desk research of supporting documentation



N = 20

RESPONSE SUMMARY

Does your organisation have a working definition and/or position on research culture?

Over a quarter of responding organisations have a clear position on the topic of research culture. Further, over 50 % of responding organisations cover the topic partially through a myriad of associated activities. Commonly cited current activities of relevance to research culture included: research integrity, open science, research assessment, and equality, diversity, and inclusivity.

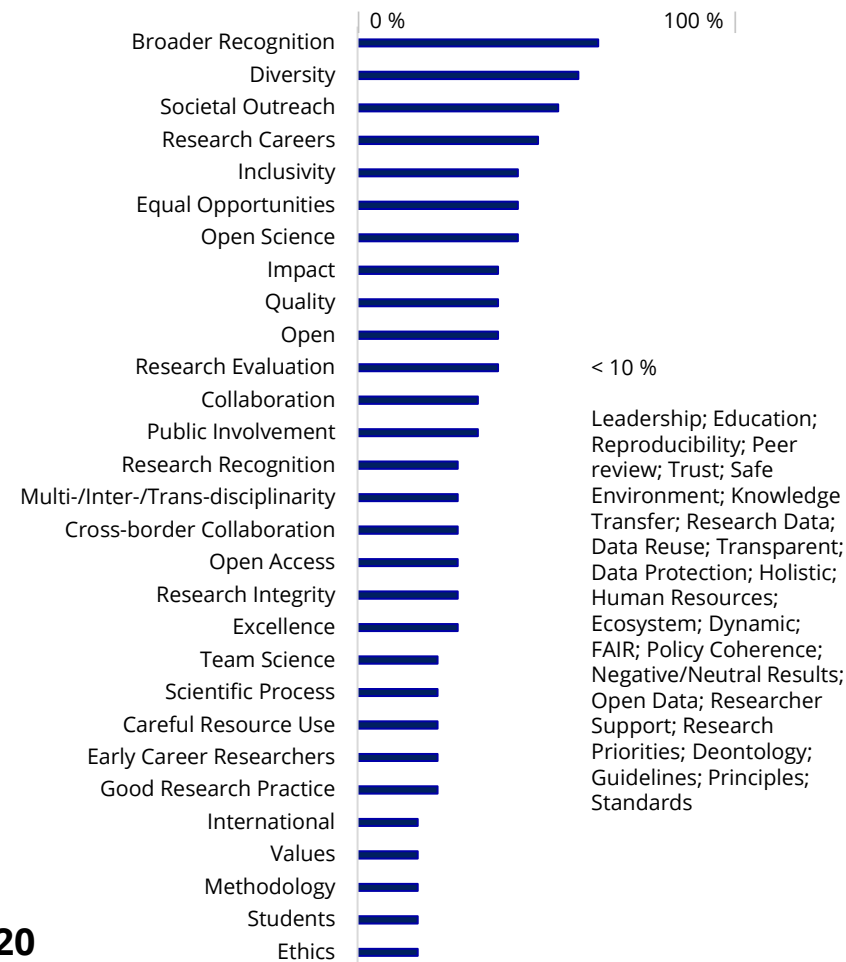
Of the organisations, that do not report having a position on the topic, all are planning to engage in the subject in the coming years.

Perceptions of an ideal research culture

Question - Describe elements of an ideal culture of the national research system of which your organisation is a part?

Free text answers converted and collated into keyword groups:

Research Recognition Dynamic **Equal Opportunities** Collaboration
 Team Science Ecosystem **Open** Open Data Transparent Principles Safe Environment Education
 Infrastructure Human Resources **Inclusivity** Early-career Researchers Guidelines
 Research Integrity Research Assessment Impact Careful Resource Use
Diversity Public Involvement Trust **Broader Recognition**
 Scientific autonomy Leadership Ethics Data Protection Cross-border Collaboration
Societal Outreach Negative/Neutral Results Multi-/Inter-/Transdisciplinarity
Research Evaluation Methodology Reproducibility Policy Coherence Students
 Researcher Support **Open Access** **Research Careers** Legislation
 Good Research Practice Excellence Deontology **Open Science** Holistic Values
 Peer Review Scientific Process FAIR Data Reuse **Public Involvement** Research Data
 International Knowledge Transfer **Quality** Standards



N = 20

RESPONSE SUMMARY

Describe elements of an ideal culture of the national research system of which your organisation is a part?

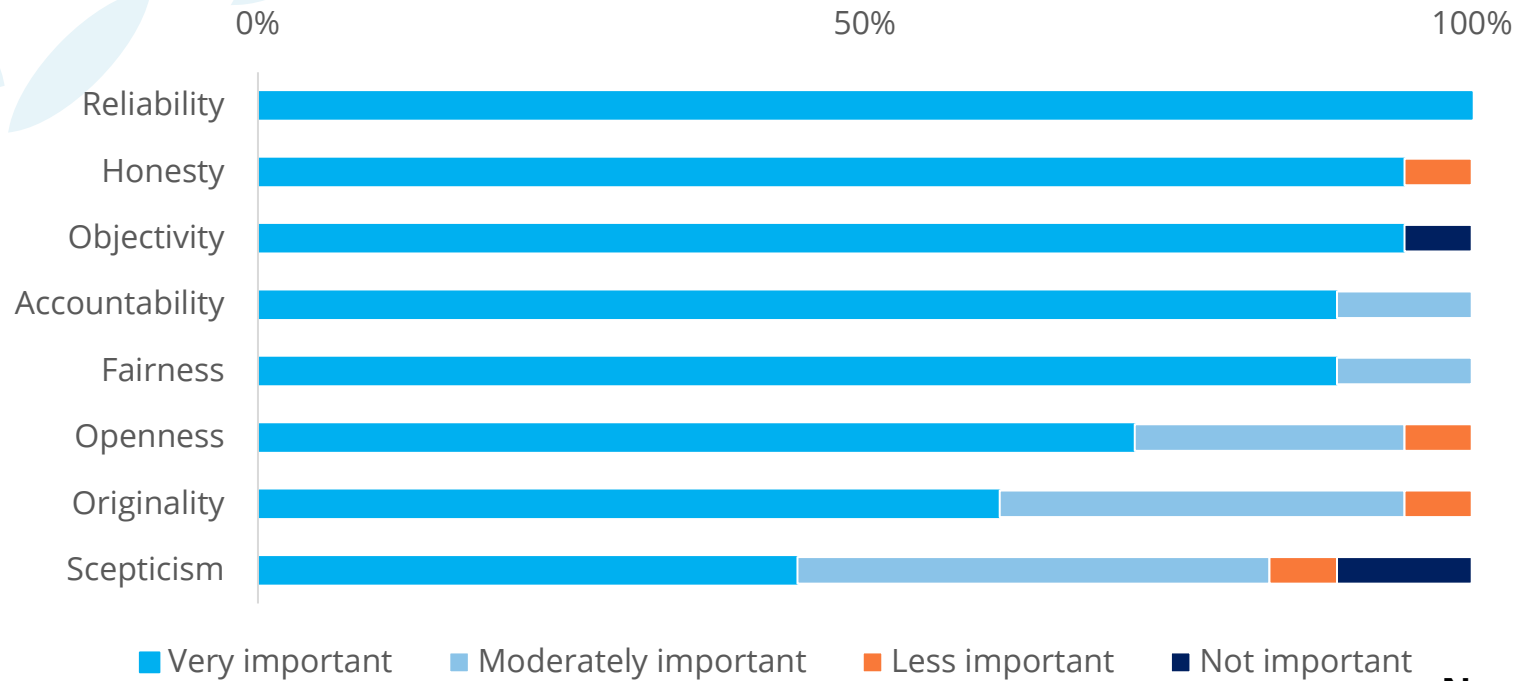
Responding organisations described a plethora of topics and subject matters when considering elements of an **ideal** research culture.

Several common themes can be determined. An ideal culture should include:

- Broader recognition of activities and roles that contribute to science.
- Equal opportunities for all, and diverse involvement in all aspects of research.
- Stronger synergies between research and society.
- Promotion of varied career pathways for researchers and research-related positions.
- Full integration of Open Science principles.
- Greater emphasis on collaboration and team work.

Impacts of current research cultures

Question - How important are the following values as a component of a functioning and effective research system?



N = 18

Question - Are there other values that your organisation considers an important component of a functioning and effective research system?

* The values presented in the questionnaire were adapted from the Interacademies Partnership (IAP) - the Global Network of Science Academies (2016). Doing global science: A guide to responsible conduct in the global research enterprise. Princeton University. ISBN 0691170754. Available at: <https://www.interacademies.org/publication/doing-global-science-guideresponsible-conduct-global-research-enterprise>, and Merton RK (1973). The sociology of science: Theoretical and empirical investigations. University of Chicago press. <https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/S/bo28451565.html>

RESPONSE SUMMARY

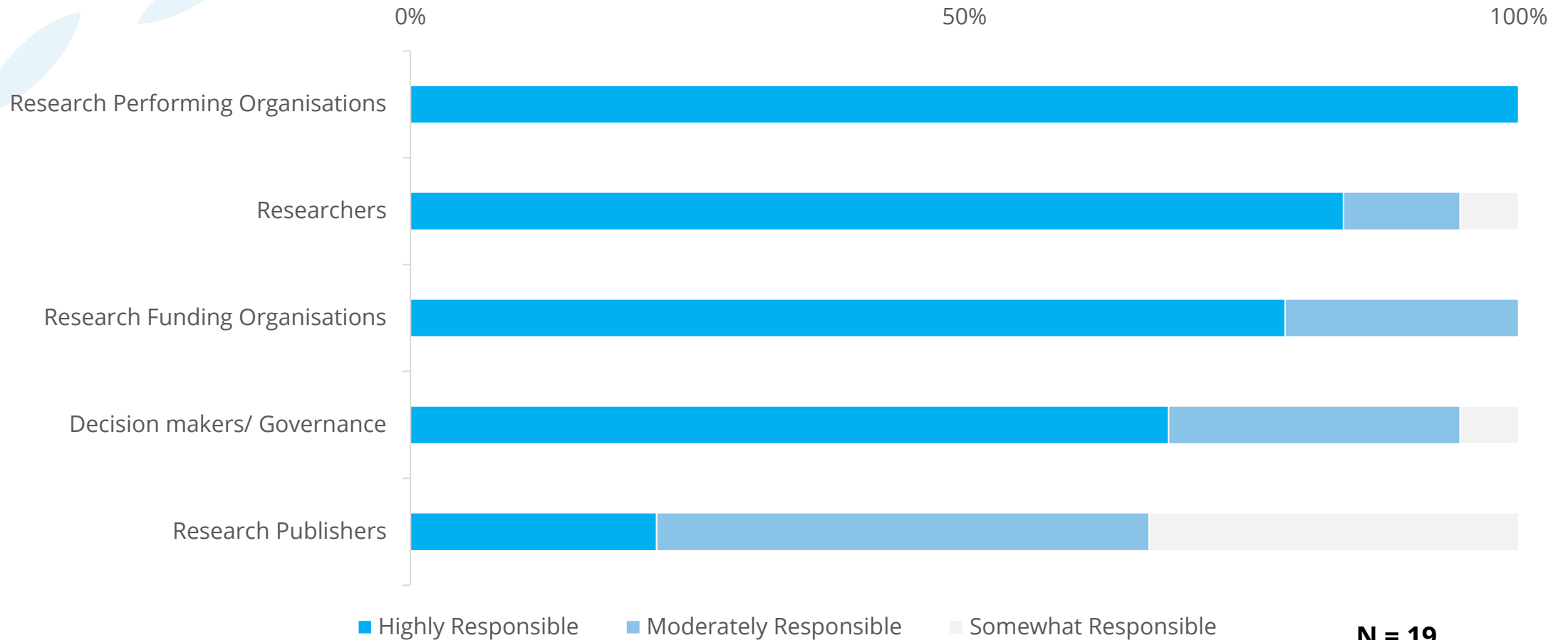
How important are the following values as a component of a functioning and effective research system?

The majority of values listed were agreed with and deemed 'very important' to the functioning of research systems.

However, several values were deemed of only moderate or less importance by a number of responding organisations, these included: openness, originality, and scepticism.

Driving changes to research culture

Question - Incentives to drive research culture change should come from which organisational levels?



RESPONSE SUMMARY

Incentives to drive research culture change should come from which organisational levels?

When asked at which level(s) incentives to drive changes research culture should come, there was broad agreement that collective and concerted action across many stakeholder groups is needed.

More specifically, respondents highlighted the importance of bottom-up initiatives from researcher performing organisations and researchers in driving culture change, whilst also recognising the need for initiatives and support from funding organisations and governance.

The roles of research organisations and Science Europe

Question - Describe the role that your organisation currently plays in the discourse on research culture.

Free text answers converted and collated into key-phrase groups

Common themes (mentioned by >10 % of respondents):

Gathering evidence
Participating in stakeholder forums/initiatives
Coordinating policy initiatives with other organisations
Providing financial support **Pioneering policies**
Establishing Working Groups Providing leadership
Leading and promoting collaboration between stakeholders
Setting standards Raising awareness
Communicating on policies and practices

N = 20

RESPONSE SUMMARY

Describe the role that your organisation currently plays in the discourse on research culture.

Responding organisations were asked to describe the role(s) that they play in relation to research culture. Several common themes were identified across responses:

- Science Europe Member Organisations lead, initiate, promote, and participate in forums and initiatives on areas of relevance to research culture (DORA often cited). In doing so, they engage with other stakeholder groups as an important component of promoting change.
- Science Europe Member Organisations develop and pioneer policies, and continually monitor and evaluate them, to promote change. Policy initiatives are often seen as standard setting, and organisations share knowledge with amongst one-another to promote coordinated approaches.
- Science Europe Member Organisations provide financial support to initiatives associated with the topic of research culture, and engage in communication and awareness raising on the subject.

The roles of research organisations and Science Europe

Question - Describe what you think the role of Science Europe should be in relation to research culture.

Free text answers converted and collated into key-phrases groups

Providing international context Advocating priorities at EU level

Promoting cross-border collaboration and international mobility

Providing a forum for discussion and knowledge sharing

Developing collective principles, joint frameworks, shared tools

Aligning and synthesising national initiatives

Facilitating exchange of good practices

Gathering evidence Maintaining a holistic view of the topic

Collecting and sharing policies and practices from different stakeholder groups and sectors

Facilitating engagement with other stakeholder groups

Raising awareness

N = 20

RESPONSE SUMMARY

Describe what you think the role of Science Europe should be in relation to research culture.

On the role(s) that Science Europe should play on the topic of research culture, a number of common themes were identified:

- Science Europe should provide a forum for members to discuss and share knowledge around the topic of research culture.
- Science Europe should collect and facilitate the exchange of (good) policies and practices amongst members, and also more broadly with other stakeholder groups.
- Science Europe should develop, maintain, and provide members with a holistic overview of the topic of research culture and provide an international context to discussions and developments.
- Science Europe should gather knowledge, discuss and develop collective principles, raise awareness around the subject.